ELL Task Force Parent Engagement Subcommittee  
12.08.2017  
10:00 AM  

Minutes  

Present: Ahmed Noor, Priya Tahiliani, Karla Estrada, Chi Nguyen, Angelina Camacho, Cheng Imm Tan, Katrina Brink  

Discussion with Karla Jenkins on Family Engagement  
Parent and SSC:  
- Parents don’t get a sense to represent the whole parent body  
- SSC is suppose to report back to the SPC  
  - If there is a parent on the SSC to the SPC, then that parent can report  
  - If there is no parent, then a report should be generated to be delivered  
  - Recommendation: mechanisms should be put in place for parents to report  
    ▪ How can parents understand and connect more to each other through different committees  
  - DELLAC have a seat on SSC?  
  - Can schools keep track of % of ELL parents who attend SSC or SPC  

- When Schools hold elections for SSC or SPC:  
  - OE volunteers to support or run elections for all schools during School Open House  
  - Hold parent university to educate parents about communication protocols for SSC and SPC  
    ▪ Trainings for families to understand their representative roles and how to share information  
    ▪ Both meetings are subject to open meeting laws  
      ▪ OE trains families on how to operationalize sharing of minutes and information  
      ▪ OE trained School Site Council 101 workshop during Parent University  
      ▪ Infuse trainings to families  
  - OE supports but isn’t in charge of DELLAC, CPC, and SPEDPAC  
    ▪ These subcommittees report back to SSC and SPC  
  - OE does mandatory observations of SSC and SPC  
  - Can’t have a fully functioning SSC if you don’t have an SPC  

- Challenges:  
  ▪ Families being confident (across the board) in reporting back  
    ▪ “I'll help, but I don’t want the title” - common occurrence  
  ▪ OE wants to collaborate based on recommendations and feedback  
    ▪ Greater than 2 way communication within groups  
      ▪ How to share the communication amongst a greater group  
      ▪ Some SPCs also have a great social media presence  
    ▪ Requests Schools to post on website, get translators, access interpreters  
      ▪ Use Title I dollars to support families  
      ▪ Access families within those groups  
      ▪ Looking to be thoughtful on how to support families when families feel uncomfortable in the process of engagement  

- Find data on # of EL parents on SSC and/or SPC
Confidentiality piece: families have to agree to allow their information to be shared
  ▪ Are the SPC and SSC members representative of the school population?
  ▪ Encourage schools to talk about SSC and SPC

Build infrastructure for improved communication
  o Build confidence to do the work = have the right tools (ie: google folders to keep information and data. Allows for transition and institutional knowledge to be retained)
  o Highlight the Quincy and BLS as best practice?
    ▪ Push back on data collection based on race
      ▪ Even though we ask for race identification, families tend to not fill out
      ▪ At every school, every elected member will fill out elected member form
  o Where can we put in clarifying language for parents to self-identify?
    ▪ If we do it for ELs, we have to do it for Special Education, etc.
    ▪ Could create a very long form

Larger issue concern: Parent Engagement
  o How do we monitor EL parent engagement?
    ▪ Allow OE and OEL to connect and clarify with Legal
  o Find mechanism to get authorization to share data

Family Friendly Schools
  • How to measure and use the rubric for engagement practices/BPS standards for engagement
  o Currently in BPS: 4 Schools: Otis (first school to be certified and will go through a re-cert every 3 years), Mckay, PJK, and Mozart
    ▪ Mckay, PJK, and Mozart will be re-cert next year
  o 6 criteria will be sent out and shared: student voice, safe and welcoming environment,
    ▪ 50% or greater return of school climate survey
    ▪ Parent data from survey could say 1 thing, can’t assume data is positive
      ▪ Data based on a number of people, but is it the actual experience at the school
      ▪ Need to have evidence of family friendliness
      ▪ Internal self assessment survey for schools
    ▪ EMK has made the list, but need to be certified
      ▪ Site visits are included
      ▪ Parent events, SPC, SSC visits
  o School leaders won’t be subjected to re-cert if they are a new leader
    ▪ Need to have stabilization
  o What supports are available to increase momentum for schools to take this process more seriously
    ▪ Schools are very excited for family friendliness, but the entire process to be certified can be daunting
    ▪ Engagement vs. participatory
      ▪ Field trip for students was requested but focus needs to be on families
        ▪ Dollars must support families
    ▪ Schools will receive report with recommendations on areas of growth and strength
      ▪ OE can provide a more in depth report on family engagement
- Simple feedback: what is your plan to organize and communicate back to families
- Break up data by category
- Final report is due on June 1, 2018
- Aggregate report can be provided after June 1
- Last meeting is in May
- Data will be reported by September 2018’s meeting
- Data is deeply rooted in engagement and not participation
- Move schools from having the idea of “come to the building” but create meaningful engagement opportunities even if families can’t show up
  - Engagement Fellows PD
    - 2 modules: Opportunity and Engagement Gap
    - 1 module on engagement of EL families
    - 10 participants with 6 schools
      - Curley, Baldwin, Haynes, Burke, Holmes, Ellison Parks
  - Cross departmental work for different trainings
    - OE presented with OEL at DELAC
    - Parent U: OEL to support family engagement
    - DELLAC members to be introduced to School Committee

Colin Rose was not able to come to the meeting, so Karla Jenkins gave a description of what she knows.
  - Opportunity and Achievement Gap:
    - School Committee voted for an Opportunity and Achievement Gap (OAG) policy
      - Addresses the district problem of practice:
      - Resourcing tools around cultural proficiency
    - Principals/Headmasters received training in Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices (CLSP)
      - White Privilege, Bias, Culture of Race, Institutional Racism
      - Comfort in the discomfort around race and how it impacts student achievement
      - Expectation wasn’t for school leaders to go back and implement immediately
      - Strategies: use 7 forms of bias to look at the bias in curriculum
    - Hayden observed more than 70 schools
      - Looking for bias in schools
      - Ideas on how to support schools
      - How to help students re-affirm their identity
    - Are there any organizational partners to share and support the work? -
      - 127 schools is a lot for 5 staff members
    - 7 CLSP sessions
  - What are the goals and metrics for Schools/school leaders/teachers/departments to measure themselves?
    - 3 year continuum/cycle/arc of learning for teachers/principals
      - Parallel training for leadership, teachers, and families
Sessions at Parent University for CLSP for parents
Can we bring these trainings to SPC or CPC?
Can we group schools together from core networks to receive CLSP training
  - Ground leadership
    - Then bring it to schools for ILT, SSC, etc.
  - Excellence for All
  - 10 Boys and 10 Girls initiative
  - All Schools required to submit CLSP goals in the Quality School Plan

- Report from OELL Family and Parent Team
  - 6 members each with specific BPS native language specialty
  - Parent advocacy: DELLAC
    - School visits: representatives
    - Know your rights project: geared towards immigrant families
    - BPSwedream website for families to use
    - Create webinars for parents to learn about BPS systems and OEL programs
    - Technology Goes Home: Haitian families, Cape Verdean families, Vietnamese, Spanish families
    - Worked with Community Based Organization with specialized linguistic groups
    - Hosted families to learn about Kindergarten programming and invited SEI and ESL teachers to run the program
      - Done in native languages
  - Culturally awareness for schools
    - Training for Muslim students at Jackson Mann
    - Training for Somali students at Hennigan
    - Training for Boston International
    - School staff training are done through collaboration with OE
  - DELLAC has 3 conferences
  - Send DELLAC members to SSC and SPC

- January meeting will have full report